



May 1, 2013

Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Governor Brown,

We write to add our support to efforts to stop further releases of dangerous criminals from state prison.

As lawmakers, we believe that public safety is one of the state's most important functions. In 2007, a bipartisan group of legislators joined together to pass Assembly Bill 900 (Solorio/Aghazarian), which provided the state with the tools necessary to avoid a court-ordered early release program. In the years since its enactment, many of these tools have not been utilized by the state.

With the state currently facing the prospect of a court-ordered inmate population reduction for 10,000 more felons, we believe it would undermine the state's responsibility to protect the public safety of all Californians not to utilize any tool at its disposal to prevent the mass release of inmates.

As such, we strongly encourage your Administration to:

- Repeal the provisions in last year's budget trailer bill (SB 1022, Chapter 42 of the Statutes of 2012) , which pulled back funding from the 2007 plan adopted in AB 900 that would have added 13,000 in-fill beds to current in-state facilities -- without building another prison.
- Reactivate decommissioned cells.
- In the short run, while the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reactivates decommissioned beds and builds the required infill beds, continue to utilize existing contract beds, to ensure that the courts do not force the state to release dangerous felons early. Your current budget proposal assumes that contract beds are no longer utilized, thereby adding 4,800 prisoners to our current in-state system.

Contracting for beds is not our first choice. However, because the state has failed to build the authorized infill beds, it is important that every step is taken by the state to ensure that dangerous criminals do not get released prematurely from state prison. We stand ready to support the necessary capital outlay and expedited regulatory reform hurdles needed to implement this plan.

One thing is clear -- early release, either by your Administration's realignment program or by a newly-imposed court ordered program, should not be done simply to save money. Criminals that do not serve their full prison sentence and believe there are no substantial consequences for their crimes may continue to commit ever-increasing violent crimes. Taking these two common-sense steps will help to protect Californians while complying with the Court's orders.